

# GENUS

the review of the  
ITALIAN COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF POPULATION PROBLEMS  
and of the

ITALIAN SOCIETY OF GENETICS AND EUGENICS  
edited under the auspices of the National Research Council

Editor: CORRADO GINI

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## THE EUGENICS SOCIETY

### Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Council

**T**HE Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 27th, 1953, at the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1. The Chair was taken by Mr. G. Aird Whyte. Eleven fellows and members were present. The Chairman conveyed to the meeting apologies for absence from Dr. G. C. L. Bertram, Mrs. B. Bosanquet, Professor Bradford Hill, The Lord Horder, Mr. R. Pilkington and Dr. Moore Taylor.

**ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Secretary briefly reviewed the main items contained in the annual report.

The Chairman, having outlined proposed future activities of the *Society*, moved the adoption of the report which was carried unanimously.

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET.**—These were presented by the Honorary Treasurer. They were put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

**HONORARY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1953-4.**—The following retirements from the Council were announced:

**President.**—Under Article 27, Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders was due to retire from the presidency of the *Society*.

**Vice-Presidents.**—Under Article 28 the following were due to retire: Professor F. Grundy; Professor A. J. Lewis.

**Council.**—Under Article 30 the following were due to retire: Dr. R. Bennett; Sir Russell Brain; Mrs. R. Conrad; Professor

E. C. Dodds; Dr. R. M. Dykes; Professor T. H. Marshall; Mr. R. Rumbold.

### Honorary Officers and Council for the Year 1953-4

**Honorary Officers.**—The following appointments by the Council were announced: *Hon. President*: Sir Charles Darwin. *Hon. Chairman*: Mr. G. Aird Whyte. *Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. Geoffrey Eley. *Hon. Librarian*: Mr. Cecil Binney. *Hon. Secretary*: Dr. C. P. Blacker. *Hon. Vice-Presidents*: Dr. G. C. L. Bertram; Professor E. C. Dodds; Mr. D. Caradog Jones; Professor T. H. Marshall; Dr. A. S. Parkes; Dr. J. A. Fraser Roberts.

**Council.**—There having been no nominations of members of the Council by Fellows outside the Council the appointment of the following was proposed and unanimously approved:

Mr. P. Bloomfield; Mrs. B. Bosanquet; Dr. J. B. Bramwell; Dr. C. D. Darlington; The Hon. Mrs. U. Grant Duff; Professor D. V. Glass; Mrs. B. Goldman; Professor F. Grundy; \* Dr. Kenneth Hutton; \* Professor A. Kennedy; Mrs. F. Laski; \* Miss E. Lawrence; Professor A. J. Lewis; \* Mr. R. Pilkington; Mr. R. C. Pritchard; Lord Simon of Wythenshawe; \* Mr. C. Usher.

**Auditors' Remuneration.**—The following was resolved: "That Messrs. West and Drake should continue to serve as the *Society's* auditors on a basis of remuneration to be agreed at the end of the year." The resolution was proposed by Mr. C. W. Usher and seconded by Dr. Julius Isaac.

\* New Members.

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sterilization laws, and an intermission in the educational programme was followed by a decrease in the sterilization rate.

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# THE ECONOMIC JOURNAL

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Writing on preparation for marriage, Dr. Hutton stresses the importance of good health in the prospective bride and groom and adds some sound information on hereditary tendencies to disease and to mental and physical abnormality and on consanguinity. The fully descriptive chapter headings and an adequate index make for easy reference, and the clear, matter-of-fact language is attractive.

Dr. Marie Stopes has produced a completely revised edition of *Enduring Passion*. The book is supplementary to *Married Love* which was written for young couples. *Enduring Passion* is designed for those who, in later years, find their "gallant optimism" is "confronted by solid obstacles to individual happiness, outlines of which rise cold and grey, no longer tinged by the roseate tints of dawn."

The supposition that there must be many thousands of people in this sad predicament is substantiated by a formidable list of the new editions and reprintings which have appeared since the book was first published in 1928. And there is no reason to doubt that "Enduring passion not only builds the home upon a rock and places sharpened tools in the hands, peace in the mind and joy in the heart, it endows the spirit with wings to explore the empyrean accompanied instead of alone."

There is no index, but a bibliography of the author's social, popular and scientific works is appended. K. H.

**Mace, David R.** *Hebrew Marriage: A Sociological Study*. London, 1953. Epworth. Pp. xv + 271. Price 21s.

SINCE 1935, Dr. Mace has become increasingly aware of a "serious crisis in marriage." He feels that the breakdown of the modern family as a unit can be arrested only if accepted patterns of marriage are re-examined and, where necessary, re-formulated; he refers in particular to those societies which are founded on Christian ethics. In *Hebrew Marriage* he attempts to ascertain the background from which the Christian idea of marriage has sprung. Dr. Mace argues that, since all the New Testament writers were steeped in Judaic law and tradition, their fragmentary references to marriage and the family cannot be properly understood without a thorough acquaintance with the spirit and law of the Old Testament.

His book is divided into two parts, the first being an anthropological survey of the origins of the Hebrews and their customs and laws. The author is determined to show that Hebrew culture was heavily influenced by contemporary civilizations and that there is little justification for assuming a pre-Biblical, matriarchal society. His main sources are the exponents of "higher Biblical criticism," famous for their constantly changing and highly speculative theories, a fact to which the author himself draws attention. One wonders whether this laborious analysis is necessary to the development of his theme, since his conclusions can be sustained, without much fear of opposition, on more direct evidence.

In the second part, Dr. Mace comes very much closer to presenting a "sociological study" and fulfills his ambition of "placing himself inside the Hebrew mind." In particular the chapters "Husband and Wife," "Parents and Children" and "The Misuse of Sex," are sympathetically conceived and brilliantly executed.

Dr. Mace might have eased his task, if he had had more recourse to post-Biblical Jewish literature. For example, the letter of Old Testament law conveys a totally inaccurate impression of the position of the Jewish woman in the family hierarchy. In spite of many legal disabilities, her position was, and is to this day, one of tremendous power and influence. Finally, it is perhaps a little unfair to ascribe the "dark streak of sexual asceticism" in Christian thought to misinterpretations of the New Testament. Paul, who came from "the society within which Christianity had its birth" and who exerted such a strong influence on the early Christian movement, leaves no doubt about his attitude. His rejection of sex does not really allow of any misinterpretation.

Apart from these points, *Hebrew Marriage* is a stimulating and sincere book and it is hoped that the author's conclusions will receive the attention which they so fully deserve.

J. CARLBACH.

## Annals of Eugenics

A Journal of Human Genetics

Edited by L. S. PENROSE

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September 1953

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*Race Attitudes in Puerto Rico.*—By Morris Siegel—are among other interesting articles in this number.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

## Social Forces

**March 1953, Vol. 31, No. 3.**—*Behaviour and personality in Japan; a critique of three studies of Japanese personality.*—By Fred. N. Kerlinger.—The author assesses the three studies of Japanese personality by the writers Gover, Meadow and Labarre, who have all assumed that the Japanese are an abnormal neurotic people owing to the frustrating factors in their child-rearing practices and to the harsh restrictions of adult life. Kerlinger suggests that the conclusions that had been drawn were based on faulty observation and on the assumption that what appeared to be frustrating to an American might not be so to a Japanese. He praises the original articles because of the new methods of attacking the problem of national personality, but deprecates the use of psychoanalytic conjecture alone. Such a technique of observing and recording is tinged by ethnocentrism, intellectualism and easy generalization. Kerlinger agrees with Embree that the Japanese may be fortunate in having an old culture with well-grooved patterns of behaviour; and that since too many uncertain situations may lead to nervous breakdown in both Japanese and Americans, Japanese may be justified in regarding American culture as one that functions but in which it is "not pleasant" to live.

*Japan's Postwar Population Problems.*—By Jesse F. Steiner.—Since the war Japan's population has increased and the prewar territory has decreased. The population structure has altered so that in a few decades there will be a disproportionate increase in the active period of life. By governmental decree the use of contraceptives has been encouraged, but the abortion rate (legal and illegal combined) has increased so much that during 1951 the still births had almost equalled the live births. Furthermore active public health measures have been put into effect, such as mass immunisation, improvements in sewerage disposal and the increased use of new drugs.

By these means the expectation of life has been increased by 13 years, to 60 years for males and 63·2 years for females, mainly by reducing infant mortality by one-half since 1940.

Although the farms are relatively over-populated, the low standard of efficiency and the large number of too-small farms will probably lead to a shortage of food; this shortage may have to be made up by approximately 20 per cent of imports.

Before the war governmental propaganda had been directed towards population expansion (in order to colonize the countries that would have been overrun if Japan had won the war). This propaganda succeeded, but the Government now appears to be reluctant to urge people to limit the size of their families. D. ROBERTSON-RITCHIE.

were 251 and 138 and for 20 to 24 years, 444 and 214.

Nine per cent of Irishmen were over 45 when married. Three-quarters of the men were married between the ages of 25 and 44, sustaining the country's reputation for late marriages.<sup>7</sup>

#### Americans and Children

The attention of the United States Congress has been drawn to American neglect of illegitimate children fathered by American servicemen abroad. It was stated that there were 100,000 American-fathered war babies in Japan, 50,000 in Germany

and 70,000 in Britain. Congress was asked to consider appropriate ways of helping these children to get a proper start in life.<sup>8</sup>

President Eisenhower has signed a Bill permitting entry into the United States of 500 orphans under ten years of age adopted abroad by United States citizens serving in the armed forces or employed abroad by the Government.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Observer*, July 12th, 1953. <sup>2</sup> *The Times*, June 25th. <sup>3</sup> *The Times*, July 29th. <sup>4</sup> *Manchester Guardian*, July 30th. <sup>5</sup> *The Times*, June 23rd. <sup>6</sup> *Manchester Guardian*, August 22nd. <sup>7</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, July 7th. <sup>8</sup> *The Times*, July 8th. <sup>9</sup> *Manchester Guardian*, July 30th.

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